IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete all prior lists of claims in the application and insert the following list of claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage system for storage of a biological sample for analysis, said system comprising:

a filter paper card for retaining the biological sample, said card having an upper face and a lower face;

a platform having an upper surface, a lower surface and a recess through said upper and lower surfaces, said recess being configured to allow access to both faces of said card when said card is in said platform; and

a container including a compartment adapted to receive said platform**, said platform being configured to be only partially withdrawn from said container**..

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 1, further comprising a testing apparatus having mechanical extensions for withdrawing said platform from said container.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim 1, wherein said platform is adapted to be **lockably** secured **in place** within the container.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 1, further comprising a closure for sealing said compartment and a locking mechanism wherein the closure is manually inoperable after locking.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 1, further comprising an identifier located inside the container for identifying the sample, said identifier being visible when viewed from outside said container.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 6, wherein the sample identifier includes a barcode.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim 1, **further comprising a sampling device,** wherein said **sampling device includes at least one extension adapted to interdigitate with said** platform **to prevent said platform form being** ~~may be~~ completely withdrawn from the container ~~to enable access to the sample for processing~~.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 1, further comprising ~~a~~ an electronic memory to record the number of times the sample has been accessed.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 9, wherein the electronic memory is adapted to record the time and date of each accession.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage system for storage of a biological sample for analysis, wherein said system comprises:

a filter paper card; and

a container comprising:

a body defining a compartment for storage of said sample; and

a platform having a recess adapted to receive said filter paper card for retaining the sample, which platform is slidably received within the compartment**, said platform being configured to be only partially withdrawn from said container**.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 11, said platform comprising at least one indentation for securing the platform within the compartment.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 12, in combination with a testing apparatus having mechanical extensions for withdrawing said platform from said container, said extensions being adapted to engage said at least one indentation of said platform.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 13, wherein said testing apparatus includes a scanner for identifying the sample.

15. (CANCELED)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim 11, **further comprising a sampling device,** wherein **said sampling device includes at least one extension adapted to interdigitate with said platform to prevent said paltform from being** ~~**the container may be**~~ completely withdrawn from the container ~~**to enable access to the sample for processing**~~.

17. (CANCELLED)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim 11, wherein said platform may be **lockably** secured **in place** within the container.

19. (CANCELED)

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 11, further comprising an identifier located inside the container for identifying the sample, said identifier being visible when viewed from outside said container.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 20, wherein the sample identifier includes a barcode.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 11, further comprising an electronic memory to record the number of times the sample has been accessed.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 22, wherein the electronic memory is adapted to record the time and date of each accession.

24. - 27 (CANCELLED)

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage system for storage of a biological sample for analysis, said system comprising:

a filter paper card for retaining the sample; and

a container comprising:

a frame having a recess adapted to receive the filter paper card for retaining the sample, said frame including at least one indentation; and

a body defining a compartment for storage of said frame, said body having an access opening for permitting movement of a portion of said frame into and out of said body, said body including at least one aperture for accessing said at least one indentation of said frame to facilitate movement of said frame relative to said body**, said fram being configured to be only partially withdrawn from said container**.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 28, wherein said at least one indentation is a socket configured to receive a mechanical extension from an automated testing apparatus.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 28, wherein said card has an upper face and a lower face, said recess being configured to allow access to both faces of the card when the card is in said frame.

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage system for storage of a biological sample for analysis, said system comprising:

a filter paper card having an area for retaining the biological sample, said card having an upper face and a lower face;

a frame having a recess adapted to receive said card, said recess being configured to allow access to both faces of said card when said card is in said frame; and

a cover for protecting the sample area on the card against contaminants, said cover being **adapted to remain in** moveable **connection** ~~**relative**~~ to said frame.